

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL – 15 MARCH 2023

NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 16

To consider the following notice of motions submitted under Procedure Rule 16:

**1. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Jane Quinton and will be seconded by Councillor Lynn Chesterman:**

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council manage 31 allotment sites across the Borough providing enormous benefits to the allotment holders. However, allotment holders are facing a tripling of their rent in the recent council budget for 2023/4, an increase disproportionate to other increases. This increase is discriminatory and will see many allotment holders question whether they can still afford to continue.

Provision of allotments is a statutory requirement as well as a recreational service provided by the Council and increases in costs should be treated accordingly. Working on these allotments provides invaluable physical and mental health benefits as well as creating a community. In a cost-of-living crisis and with increasing instances of food insecurity in this country, growing your own fruit and vegetables also puts fresh, cheap food on the table for many who cannot stretch to supermarket prices.

The Liberal Democrat and Labour groups therefore call upon the Council to:

1. a) Set up a cross party panel group as soon as possible to review the impact of the price increase with a view to informing the 2024/25 budget.
2. b) Set up an allotment users' panel with the council to steer the ongoing management of the allotments under the Council's control.